WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS,

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

No. 27.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS
801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.
FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

GREAT STRIKE IN OPERATION

Thirty-Eight Thousand Shop Men on Illinois Central, Union and Southern Pacific Railroads Quit Work.

Washington, Oct. 7.--Following is the declaration made by C. H. Markham, President of the Illinois Central Railroad: "It would only be a question of years till the operating men became members of the system federation. That would place this railroad at the mercy of a compact body of labor able to enforce its demands by tying up the entire system at all points. That is why I am opposed to the system federation plan of organization." Its sentiment was endorsed by the officials of the Harriman system of railroads. Acting on the above assumption the railroad officials refused to enter into negotiations with the representatives of the Illinois Central and Union and Southern Pacific System Federations. As a result 38,000 shop men are on strike in 15 states and 24 cities.

When the strike was called the members of the different organizations affected promptly walked out. The number of workers of the different crafts who went on strike follows: Boilermakers, 5,000; Machinists, 10,000; Carmen, 14,000; Clerks, 1,200; Blacksmiths and Helpers, 3,000; Steamfitters, 500; Sheet Metal Workers, 1,200; Painters, 2,000; Laborers (Federated), 2,000.

The cities affected by the strike are: Centralia, Ill.; Memphis, Tenn.; Oakland, Cal.; Birmingham, Ala.; Freeport, Ill.; Paducah, Ky.; Oak Park, Cal.; Houston, Tex.; Portland, Ore.; El Paso, Tex.; Omaha, Neb.; Kansas City, Mo.; Beaumont, Tex.; Cheyenne, Wyo.; East St.Louis, Ill.; Salt Lake City, Utah, Sacramento, Cal.; East Bakersfield, Cal.; Los Angeles, Cal.; Sparks, Nev.; McComb, Miss.; San Antonia, Tex.; North Platte, Neb.; and Tucson, Ariz.

On Saturday, September 30, the following message was flashed over the wires from James W. Kline, President of the Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, and chairman of the strike committee: "Kruttschnitt refuses. All efforts have failed. All crafts to strike Saturday, September 30, 10 a. m. Letter of instruction follows. Let every man do his duty." The men responded and the great battle was on.

The railroad officials are making frantic efforts to replace the men with strike breakers, but are meeting with scant success. The shops are guarded and stockaded, but the men are confident of success, and are determined to win. The citizens at the many strike points are in sympathy with the strikers, and the strike breakers have been the only offenders against the law.

READY FOR THE FRAY

President Gompers Returns to Washington and Prepares to Continue the Battle for the Workers' Uplift.

Washington, Oct. 7.—"On Wednesday evening, October 4, President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor reached Washington, D. C. after an extended campaign on the Pacific Coast and in the Western States. On Thursday morning he was at his desk at headquarters, and altnough buried in a mass of correspondence, found time to express an opinion on the signs of the times as far as the labor world is concerned. He said: "There is a feeling of unrest among the workers of the world. England, Ireland and the Continent of Europe have had their upheavals and the workers are awakening to a realization of their power in a manner that speaks in unmistakable terms of their determination to secure a more equitable portion of that which they produce.

"In our own United States the same feeling of unrest prevails and if the employers in this country continue their present policy and refuse to meet the representatives of organized labor, the battle for the uplift may be fought on a larger scale, than the conflict which has temporarily ended in Europe.

"I have been among the men who toil, every minute, since I left Washington on August 17. I have talked with them, and labored with them, and have found the measure of their dissatisfaction great. Continued refusals on the part of the employers to meet the representatives of labor will only aggravate the unrest of the workers and no one can foretell what the result will be.

"The workers in the West and on the Pacific Coast are conducting a magnificent contest. With a bold and determined purpose they are demanding that their rights shall be recognized. Their contentions are ju t and must eventually be conceded. It would have been a pleasure to me to extend my campaign on the coast, but my duties at headquarters, and the intimation that Judge Wright would probably announce his decision in the proceedings for contempt which he has initiated on his own account, this week made it imperative for me to return.

"While in Los Angeles I had an opportunity to talk with the McNamara brothers, and although I had to leave them in the gloomy jail, I left them with the firm conviction that a jury of their peers would soon proclaim their innocence, set them free, and remove from labor the stain that an unscrupulous organization of employers, The National Association of Manufacturers with its $1,500,000 fund to crush labor would feign fasten upon it. Before I saw the McNamara brothers in jail I was positively convinced of their innocence. After talking with them in Los Angeles I am convinced that they are the victims of one of the most diabolical plots ever hatched in our country.

In Los Angeles every effort has been made to prejudice the citizens against the McNamaras. Detective Burns, his employers and satellites, have alre dy tried them in the newspapers and magazines, but justice will prevail and the plots of the enemies of labor will fail. The people of Los Angeles are realizing more and more that an unholy effort has been and is being made to sacrifice innocent men so that a stain may be cast on the cause they represent. The American Federation of Labor will stand by the McNamaras. We know they are innocent. We have secured for them the services of the ablest lawyers who cannot be bought and I am confident that when the trial is over and the plots of the enemies of labor have been disclosed, organized labor will be commended and praised for its position in the McNamara case.

FOR HER UNION

Becky Fisher, Arrested Thirty-Nine Times in Eleven Weeks is Still Loyal to the Cause.

Washington, Oct. 7.—All movements for the uplift have had their heroes, heroines and martyrs, and the labor movement is no exception to the rule. The strike that is now going on in Cleveland has developed many noble characters, among them Becky Fisher, a frail young girl, 17 years old who has displayed great courage and instilled confidence into her fellow strikers. And she is only one of several hundreds of girls who are gallantly holding the fort of unionism and repulsing every attack of unscrupulous employers who are daily attempting to scale the breastworks of organized labor. A better fight has never been witnessed. The girls are exhibiting a spirit of self sacrifice that stirs the hearts of all honest men and women.

For fifteen weeks 6,000 members of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union have been on strike in Cleveland, O. 2,000 of the strikers are women and girls and no advance movement has had braver or more self sacrificing exponents than the girl strikers, who are now fighting for the very life of their union in the home city of John D. Rockefeller.

Hounded by the private detectives and sluggers of the avaricious employers, driven from the streets and arrested by the city police, the women have maintained the picket line, and with undaunted spirit continue the fight for living wages, reasonable hours of labor and industrial freedom. Even the specter of the jail with all its attendant horrors for frail women has not kept them from responding to the call of duty, and scores of them are arrested daily for attempting to exercise the rights of American citizens.

Humiliating and mortifying trips in the patrol, abuse at the hands of bullies, private detectives and city police, and even confinement in vile cages in station houses have all failed to break the spirit of the strikers and the battle is being waged with undiminished vigor and marvelous courage. There can only be one ending for such a conflict and that a complete victory for the strikers.

Becky Fisher has been arrested 39 times in 11 weeks and driven in the patrol to the station house because she refused to surrender her right to talk to her fellow workers and try to persuade them not to take the places of the strikers and help unscrupulous employers to defeat honest toilers. She has been insulted and abused by those who should have been her protectors. Becky has never flinched. Released from durance vile she has always hastened back to the scene of the fray to succor and cheer her fellow unionists.

She has a horror of the police, the patrol wagon and the jail, but her union is as sacred to her as was Old Glory to Barbara Fritchie, and fear is an unknown quality to this little girl when she is fighting for her loved union and the cause it represents.

Becky is now on the road pleading for funds to enable her brothers and sisters to continue the struggle against the Cleveland labor crushers. Her appeal is from the heart and should meet a ready response from all union men and women.

The strikers want a 50 hour instead of a 75 hour week, the abolition of the sub-contract system, and the charge of 25 cents a day for the use of the machines and many other very obnoxious conditions.

AS OTHERS SEE HIM

President Gompers Characterized as the Chosen Exponent and Champion of the Working Classes.

Washington, Oct. 7.—In Fresno, Cal., a great multitude turned out to welcome and listen to President Gompers. His address was well received by the workers, and the following editorial from the Fresno Daily Herald shows how he impressed the disinterested public:

"The magnificent audience which faced the president of the American Federation of Labor at the Barton Opera House last night was something more than a personal greeting to Mr. Gompers. It was a demonstration of the strength and the solidarity of organized labor.

There have been other occasions upon which Fresno's forum was crowded to capacity by men and women anxious to hear a national or a state leader. Perhaps never before has there been a gathering so nearly wholly composed of the workers of the community. Certainly it is a long time since an audience of workers joined so heartily in a tribute to one man. Gompers stands before the people of the United States as the chosen exponent and champion of the working masses. It must be an inspiration to find those whom he represents so enthusiastic and unanimous in their appreciation of his work.

From an experience of twenty-nine years as the president of the federation, during which he has been in close touch with the growth of the labor movement in all its phases, counselling with the representatives of labor in all parts of the world, Gompers speaks with authority. His utterances, fraught with bitterness as sometimes they are, cannot lightly be dismissed as might those of a man of less intimate acquaintance with the subjects he touches upon. His arraignment of the courts which have construed the law unfavorably to the cause Gompers champions, was strong and masterly.

One cannot wonder that to such a man, fighting a battle for millions of his fellows against unscrupulous foes, it should seem that laws and courts are merely instruments by which the powers of wealth defend themselves and harrass others. Experience of biased judges has not tended to soften Gompers' heart toward the judiciary. Ambiguities in laws which have been availed of to perpetrate injustice are, to him, not an evidence of loose lawmaking, but the proof of malignant design on the part of labor's foes. His attitude is necessarily that of a fighter who expects the enemy to resort to the tactics of war. He would not have attained, or retained, his position had he been of the judicial temperament which weighs and considers. Born leaders of men are rarely capable of dispassionate judgment.

Gompers has proven himself by his work. Organized labor trusts him and he has honored the trust. Fresno's workers cannot but be encouraged by his visit. It is impossible to believe that Mr. Gompers on his side, has not received inspiration from his reception in Fresno.

GAIN RECOGNITION

Washington, Oct. 7.—Lamp makers employed by the Hudson Lamp Co. at New York City have gained an important victory. Sometime ago they presented demands to the representatives of the company, which were denied and they were forced to go on strike. The workers fought valiantly and every attempt on the part of the employers to break the strike failed. A complete victory followed, the company agreeing to recognize the union, granted a 9 hour day and time and one half for overtime. Other important concessions were also granted.

AN OBSERVING BISHOP

Tells Churchmen That Conditions Under Which the Masses Labor Should Not Be Tolerated.

Washington, Oct. 7.—In Birmingham, Eng., a clergyman has labored for seven years and lived on $5 a week. The remainder of his salary has been used in succoring the needy and his life has been spent studying conditions under which the workers labor.

This clergyman, Dr. Gore, is one of the most noted divines in England and has recently been made Bishop of Oxford. On leaving Birmingham he wrote the following letter to the diocese:

"One special sense of failure weighs upon me which I cannot keep to myself. I feel that among the objects which I most seriously set before myself there is no one in which I have failed more signally than in stirring among churchmen in general a sense of their duty to contribute to the social and industrial reconstruction of our nation. There is a profound sense of unrest and dissatisfaction among the workers. Recently Society has been deeply alarmed at its symptoms. I cannot but believe that this profound discontent is justified, though some particular exhibitions of it are not. The longer I have lived in this great industrial centre the more I have felt that as Christians we are not justified in tolerating the conditions of life and labor under which a vast mass of our population is living. We have no right to say that these conditions are not remediable, and we have no right to expect that they will be remedied until Christian hearts and Christian heads energetically demand and insist that they shall be altered. Social science will help us to avoid mistakes, but only the real love of man can give the impulse to effective reform.

. . . The preventible lack of equipment for life among the young, and later the insecurity of employment and inadequacy of remuneration, and consequent destitution or semi-destitution among so many of our people, ought to inspire in all Christians a profound and passionate determination to devote themselves to the reform of our industrial system. I cannot but pray from my heart that my successor may be enabled to bring home to Churchmen generally a deeper sense of their social obligations."

A MULTITUDE OF STRIKERS

London, Eng., Oct. 7.—A report issued by the Labor Department of the Board of Trade, shows that in the month of August there were on strike 148,000 railway workers, 78,000 dock laborers, carmen and others; 35,000 dock workers, seamen, etc, at Liverpool and Birkenhead; 3,000 carters at Manchester, and 2,500 and 1,000 tramwaymen at Glasgow and Leeds respectively.

There were 100 new disputes during the month affecting 365,256 more than in August last year.

DRIVEN TO REBELLION

Washington, Oct. 7.—Three hundred men, women, boys and girls employed in the plant of the American Druggists Syndicate in New York have gone on strike as a protest against unbearable conditions. The strikers have been the recipients of exceedingly small wages and have been compelled to work from 7:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. Recently a system similar to the Taylor system was established; the workers protested and declared they could not stand the strain, and their complaint was answered by the issuance of an order requiring them to work from 7:30 a. m.

to 9 p. m. and 11 p. m. without extra compensation. Seventy-five men walked out and were followed by the remainder of the workers. The plant is now guarded by the police.

VICTIMS OF CORPORATE GREED

Death Reaps a Horrible Harvest as a Result of Corporation's Failure to Safeguard Life.

Washington, Oct. 7.—According to a statement made by Edward Wegmann, the distinguished civil engineer, the disaster at Austin, Pa., caused by the breaking of the Bayless dam, could have been averted at a cost of $25,000. Failure on the part of the owners to provide this amount caused a fearful catastrophe in which the lives of over 150 men and women and children were sacrificed and all the earthly possessions of hundreds more were swept away by the death dealing flood. The following statement from Mr. Wegmann appeared in the Washington Herald:

"Mr. Hatton wrote me January 29, 1910, asking me to give him some engineering advice on re-enforcement of the dam" said Mr. Wegmann to day. "I agreed to do so and Mr. Hatton called upon me shortly thereafter at my office in this city. Mr. Hatton submitted to me the plans according to which he had constructed the dam at Austin, Pa., and stated that the dam had commenced to move, and was in a dangerous condition.

"Mr. Hatton said the base of the dam had already slid eighteen inches, and that the top of the dam was thirty-one inches away from its original position.

"The calculation which I made with reference to the stability of the dam showed that the profile adopted for the construction of the dam would have been sufficiently strong provided the dam had been built on a pervious rock foundation. As a matter of fact the dam was built on a very pervious foundation of sandstone which was more or less fissured. I found that taking into account the upward pressure of the water under the base of the dam, the structure was in a very dangerous condition, and I advised Mr. Hatton to build an additional amount of masonry on the downstream side of the dam and to construct a cut off wall of masonry or puddle at the upstream face - this cut-off to reach down to an impervious stratum. I also suggested that the dam might be held by building a cut-off wall and adopting a rock filling on the down stream face as a re-inforcement.

"I submitted my report to Mr. Hatton and received a reply in which Mr. Hatton stated that he fully agreed with my recommendation and intended to submit them to his clients with some additional precautionary measures as regards water-proofing between the cut-off wall and the upstream face of the dam.

Mr. Wegmann exhibited two letters from Mr. Hatton, the first under date of February 16, 1910. In this letter Mr. Hatton said that he intended advising his clients to adopt both precautions recommended by Mr. Wegmann.

On February 19, 1910, Mr. Hatton wrote:

"The dam cost originally $79,000, not including engineering expenses. I am glad to note that you coincide with my ideas, but I fear my clients will fear to spend the $25,000 or $30,000 necessary to render the dam absolutely safe."

"The Company evidently did fear to spend the comparatively trifling sum," said Mr. Wegmann significantly, "for nothing was done on the dam."

At Teague, Tex., carpenters have established the 8 hour day and a scale of 45 cents an hour.

ORGANIZED LABOR SPEAKS

Indiana State Federation of Labor Denounces Governor Marshall For His Part in the Kidnapping of John J. McNamara.

Washington, Oct. 7.--Organized labor in Indiana has uttered its protest against the action of the chief executive of the state in permitting John J. McNamara to be taken from the state without due process of law. The Indiana State Federation of Labor at its convention held in Evansville, Ind. passed the following resolutions without a dissenting voice:

"Since the arrest of Brother J. J. McNamara, and his denial of justice in the city court of Indianapolis, the Marion County Circuit Court presided over by the Hon. Charles Remster, has decided that Judge Collins has not and never did have authority and jurisdiction to hear, try or determine any question concerning the extradition of persons charged with being fugitives from justice.

"We therefore condemn the act of James A. Collins, judge of the City Court of Indianapolis for his wrongful assumption of jurisdiction over J. J. McNamara, and for denying him the right of counsel and opportunity to call witnesses and communicate with his friends, as a gross outrage, and believe that as an officer he is unworthy of further holding any office of trust among a people who desire justice properly administered and rightfully upheld.

"We denounce the acts of Governor Thomas R. Marshall in the extradition of Brother J. J. McNamara as grossly unjust, lacking in consideration of the rights of an American citizen, ill advised and beneath the dignity of the chief executive of the state.

"We therefore regard Governor Marshall as an officer who acts without due consideration, forms his judgments hastily, condemns without investigation, accepts perjury and refuses thereafter to rebuke, but chooses rather to condone.

"We therefore ask every citizen to disavow any connection with any movement or effort to further continue Governor Marshall in office or to satisfy his ambition for other or higher honors."

The convention also appropriated $200 as a contribution to the McNamara defense fund.

DOING THINGS IN ERIE

Washington, Oct. 7.--Reports from Erie, Pa., show that the unions are up and doing and that very encouraging results are being attained. Members of the various unions have been conducting a campaign for higher wages and have been remarkably successful. The Painters, Carpenters, Fish Dressers and the Stone Masons' Unions have secured substantial increases in wages for their members and other unions are about to make similar demands with assurances of success.

While the old unions have been making gains in membership and wages, the non-union workmen, realizing the necessity for conserted action have been getting into line and as a consequence new unions of sheet metal workers, chauffeurs, bookbinders and street car men have been formed. Men of other crafts and callings are seeking to profit through organization, and the union men of the city are rendering them every assistance in their effort to become a part of the labor movement.

NATIONAL STRIKE THREATENED

English Railwaymen Grow Restless and Threaten To Cease Work Unless Grievances Are Promptly Redressed.

Washington, Oct. 7.—Failure on the part of the Railway Companies to reinstate some of the men who took part in the great English Railway Strike is likely to cause a renewal of the trouble on a larger scale, according to the following statement from Reynolds's Newspaper:

"Apart from the new trouble amongst the railway men in Ireland, which is reported in another column, there still remains a great deal of dissatisfaction amongst the employes on English railway lines. We have refrained from commenting upon the existing unrest owing to the fact that the Special Commission is sitting and is endeavoring to find a satisfactory settlement of the various issues at stake. These are very numerous. But last week we had to point out the existing troubles on some of our railway lines. The men are determined to have their grievances redressed, and unless something is done promptly to relieve the present tension there will probably be a national strike of railwaymen. Since the recent strike the membership of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants has risen by 5,000 which is a sign of unity. The employes of the South-Eastern and Chatham threaten to cease work at short notice, upon signal to do so, if the men who left work during the recent strike are not reinstated. The situation amongst the men engaged on the Midland at Burton and Derby has again become critical. The men alleged that a large number of those who were juniors, and who worked through the strike, have been brought to the front of the seniors who did not work. These juniors will have precedence for promotion, and consequently the seniors are penalized. This is contrary to the terms of settlement, and is causing great dissatisfaction. At Bradford the men are complaining of vindictiveness, and active preparations are being made with the object of making the demand for better conditions effective. The Executive Committee of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants have now the matter in hand and are in conference with the representatives at the Board of Trade. Mr. Hudson, M. P., considers that the country will yet have to fight the question of an eight hours day for all railwaymen. Meanwhile a stupid meeting has been held at Widnes. It was a meeting of non-Union railwaymen, and they were supposed to protest against the tyranny of the Unionists. But who was the chairman? Why, Mark Judge, of London! The new Union of non-Unionists has actually thirty members!"

POTTERY GIRLS WIN

Tunstall, Eng., Oct 7.—Because the firm of Messrs. Grindley & Co. discharged 7 girls, 160 other girls went on strike for their reinstatement. The girls were all members of the Pottery Workers' Union, and put up such a magnificent fight that the employes were compelled to recognize them, and send for a committee from the union to discuss the causes of the strike. As a result of the meeting between the union girls and the employes, the seven discharged employes were reinstated, and an agreement was entered into to the effect that no one would be discharged for union activity.

Teamsters in Barre, Vt., have gained a nine hour day and a 10 per cent increase in wages without a strike. The bakers have organized a union that embraces every man working at the trade in the city.

A REAL "OPEN SHOP"

In Palestine Where Organization Among the Workers is Unknown A Stone Cutter Gets from 42 to 94 Cents a Day.

Washington, Oct. 7.—The following extract from the Daily Consular and Trade Reports, issued by the United States Government is submitted to the attention of exponents of the "open shop" and to workmen who desire to live in a land where the "open shop" is in full swing and where all are "free and independent workmen."

"The following daily wages are paid in Jerusalem: Unskilled labor, 20 to 40 cents; carpenters, 52 cents to $1.05; masons as high as $1.60, stonecutters 42 to 94 cents.

"A complete costume of a poor Jerusalem native costs about $3.80; a peasant's costume is more expensive and averages $12. Many city natives have adopted European costume, and ready made suits of clothes can be bought here for $6, and suits made to order for $12 or less.

"The following particulars, obtained from natives themselves, give an idea of the cost of living. None of the following is in the class of very poor people, but they may be taken as representatives of the average working class, and who may be said to be prosperous in their line.

"A shoeblack.- He has a family of five besides himself, mother, sister, young brother, wife, and baby. They live in two rooms and kitchen paying therefor $28 a year. They use 5 rotls of flour a week, at 20 cents a rotl (rotl = 6 1/3 pounds), and buy 3 or 4 okiehs (okieh = about one half pound) of meat once a week. The entire weekly expenses count up $3.86, including rent and clothes. The latter cost for the entire family about $23.16 a year.

"A stone mason.- He has 11 in his family - 9 children, wife and himself - residing in two rooms and a small kitchen, rental value $23.16. The daily expenditure for food is about 60 cents. The mason receives 77 to 96 cents a day and finds employment about three-fourths of the year.

"A clerk in a bank.- His family consists of a mother and sister. They live in a small house and keep a servant. The clerk expends $115.80 for schooling for his sister, while he dresses well in European style. His yearly expenses are $579 and he receives $463.20 yearly as salary and has a small small income from some property."

The report does not tell the amount of the wages received by the servant in this family. We leave the exponents of the "open shop" to surmise how much he or she does get.

NEW YORK TAILORS STRIKE

Washington, Oct. 7.—Thirty-five hundred custom tailors are on strike in New York City, but all indications point to a speedy settlement and victory for the workmen. Many of the employers have already signed agreements with the union and an average increase in wages of about 15 per cent has been granted. In many of the shops where non-union men were employed the tailors walked out, joined the union and went on the picket line. Employers are breaking away from the organization and settling with their men daily. In one day 300 men returned to work with their demands granted. The strikers are presenting a solid front and are determined to continue the controversy until their demands are fully recognized.

SHOCKING REVELATIONS

Women in American Foundries Perform Tasks that Cripple and Unfit Them for Womenly Duties.

Washington, Oct. 7.—Following the discovery of women employed at the hardest kind of labor in foundries in Massachusetts comes another shocking revelation in the plant of the Henry B. Worthington Co. at Harrison, N. J. It has been revealed that between 150 and 200 women are employed as coremakers in the latter place. The work is exceedingly hard and rough and the women are required to labor in a stiffling atmosphere impregnated with the fumes of gasoline, burning coke and coal. They shovel sand and lift all kinds of forms and molds and perform tasks that eventually cripple and unfit them for womenly duties. Their faces and hands are begrimed with black dust and grease, and were they not required to wash themselves before leaving the plant they would present an unseemly appearance on the streets.

The reason for the supplanting of the male coremaker is plain. The men got from $3 to $3.50 a day; the women get from $1 to $1.35 a day.

Discussing the revelations in Massachusetts, the Boston Common, under the caption: How Labor is "Protected" has this to say: "In the plant of the Walworth Manufacturing Company, to cite one example, a reporter found 57 women and girls making cores of sand, flour, water, molasses and fish oil. 'A dozen girls worked on one bench within ten feet of a furnace. The heat was intense. Their eyes were inflamed and their attire as light as frequently seen on the densely populated streets in the tenement districts during the hottest days in summer.' These girls are paid an average of about $6 a week. Some get as high as $9. The manager admitted that the girls had displaced male core makers who had been paid from $12 to $18 a week. What is more, some of the girls liked the work, or at least preferred it to working in a department store, where they would receive less money and have to pay more for clothes."

VICTORY IN DENVER

Washington, Oct. 7.—The United Labor Bulletin, Denver, Colo. announces the successful termination of a strike in which Press Assistants' Union No. 14 secured a satisfactory agreement with the master printers of the city and an increased wage scale. "Under the terms of the agreement the cylinder pressmen's assistants will get an advance of $1 a week from September 1, 1911, until September 1, 1912 with an increase of 50 cents a week thereafter for the succeeding two years.

"The compromise scale agreed upon is as follows: All presses day scale, $16; ready prints, $17; apprentice pressmen not less than $17, cylinder feeders, night work, $18; apprentice pressmen, night work, not less than $19; automatic feeder operators not less than $17; an increase of 50 cents a week for the second and third years in harmony with the foregoing scale.

"The strikers asked an increase of $1.50 a week with a 50 cent increase for two years after the first year. Under the new compromise scale they will get $1 a week increase."

FOR THE McNAMARA DEFENSE

Washington, Oct. 7.—At the convention of the International Association of Machinists, held in Davenport, Ia. $1,000 was appropriated for the McNamara defense, and an assessment of 25 cents was recommended to the membership.

Supreme Court of the State of Washington Declares Workmen's Compensation Act Constitutional.

Washington, Oct. 7.—Organized labor in the State of Washington is rejoicing over a decision recently handed down by the Supreme Court of the state sitting in Olympia, which sustained the constitutionality of the Workmen's Compensation Act passed at the last session of the legislature. This beneficent legislation was secured through the united, continued and untiring efforts of the members of labor organizations.

In handing down the decision the court said: "A business that seeks a profit at the risk of the life and limb of human beings is subject to regulation, and that law is, or ought to be, a progressive science and the constitution must be construed in the light of our changed conditions."

The constitutional questions raised were that the law deprived individuals of their property without due process of law; that it did not apply to all alike and was class legislation, that it was contrary to the provisions directing uniform taxation and that it violated the right of trial by jury.

The decision was written by Judge Fullerton and was signed by the full court.

UNION MAN SEEKS JUDGESHIP

Washington, Oct. 7.—Daniel G. Ramsay, a well known member of a labor organization is seeking election as Judge of the Superior Court in Chicago. Mr. Ramsay has been a member of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers for 25 years and still takes an active part in the business of the organization although he has been a member of the Chicago bar for years. He has served as chief executive of his union, and has been repeatedly honored by the organization by being selected by the members to represent them at the annual conventions of the American Federation of Labor. At the session of the Grand Division held recently he was again elected to serve for the next two years. For four years he served as assistant states attorney. The election of men who have a thorough understanding of the trade union movement, to any position in the gift of the people, will mean more equitable conditions for our people.

THE MINOTAUR DEVOURS AGAIN

Washington, Oct. 7.—With jaws of steel and fiery breath the modern Minotaur continues its work of destruction strewing its path with helpless victims. It spares neither old age or youth and the strong and the weak are alike helpless when enveloped by its destroying influence.

Speeding along, the Gettysburg express, on the Western Maryland railroad, on account of spreading rails, jumped the tracks near the Maryland-Pennsylvania line and 16 passengers were badly injured. The smoking car turned over and rolled down an embankment, maiming and bruising its helpless occupants. A relief train with physicians aboard was rushed to the scene of the catastrophe.

Stay away from Muscatine, Ia. Employers are attempting to destroy Button Workers' Union and general strike is on.